

From: Kristen Langley
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/24/02 2:50pm
Subject: Microsoft settlement

Good day:

I would like to express my appreciation for the opportunity to support a settlement of the anti-trust activity taken against the Microsoft.

I have no financial interest in the decision. I am neither an employee or contractor of the corporation, nor, do I (nor any member of my family) own stock in the corporation.

I am, however, a citizen. I believe that this pursuit of the corporation has -- frankly -- reached a point where animus and a socialistic "force Bill Gates to share his wealth" financial gain is the motivation.

In the latter, I would cite the experience with the tobacco settlements. The Attorneys General talked, ad naseum, about the money going for "prevention" and "treatment" and "health care" that would come from these monopolistic purveyors of death and disease. Noble, noble motives! What happened? Some of the funds did go to programs and education, but most went into State general funds and used to fill general fund shortfalls. The money has been [mis]spent in lieu of general tax revenue, and the intended recipient programs/ actions are left underfunded -- a 'liability' on the books that we will be asked to pay for, again, later.

To quote a fitness guru, it's time to "STOP THE MADNESS". If Mr. Gates builds a better mousetrap, then let him benefit from it. If some of Mr. Gates' competitors can't stand that, let them build a better operating system instead of using the authority and resources of the United States, and 'united' [small "u" -- i.e. the aggregation of states' Attorney's General) States to substitute for their second-rate and second-rate-popularity product. If Mr. Gates has pushed past reasonable bounds, then penalize him, and move on to more critical issues.

Kristen Langley

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